Sample Syllabus Summary:
The assignments and readings are from the Quarter listed.
They will most likely change – use as an example ONLY.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

HSERV 559A
Public Policy for Public Health
Autumn 2009
October 8, 2009
December 3, 2009
9:00am – 4:30pm

Instructor: Carolyn (Cindy) Watts, Ph.D., Professor
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Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Health policy refers to decisions that guide organizational and individual behaviors affecting health and the financing, delivery, and use of health services. In this class, we will explore the complex array of factors that affect health policy and the interaction of public policy with markets and the legal system, using contemporary public health issues as case examples. We will examine how science and community values intertwine in health policy development, and how context (i.e., ideology, culture, and history) influence the structure of and changes to a nation's health system.

Course material will be presented through didactic presentations, case examples, in-class and on-line discussions, and written and oral assignments.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Identify the elements of the public policy process and describe their historical underpinnings
2. Identify the players in the public policy process and compare their roles
3. Apply the policy framework to public health issues
4. Compare the roles of anecdote, advocacy, information, and research in the policy process

5. Identify the role of government in markets, and analyze how government activities affect resource allocation and distribution
6. Analyze the interactions among public policy, economic markets, and the legal system

COURSE EXPECTATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND GRADING

Overall Expectations

Students are expected to:

* attend both in-class sessions
* read required materials in a timely fashion
* actively engage in classroom and on-line discussion
* turn in assignments on time

Paper Expectations:

* Written assignments are to be typed with font size no less than 12; double-spaced
* Correct spelling and grammar are expected – GRADES WILL BE AFFECTED BY POOR WRITING
* Assignments are due by date specified unless other arrangements are made; late papers will receive lower grades as noted below

ASSIGNMENTS

Students may earn a total of 105 points in the course through a combination of papers, oral presentations, and participation in on-line discussions. NOTE: THIS IS 5 POINTS MORE THAN THE NUMBER NEEDED FOR A 4.0 (SEE BELOW). THUS, YOU CAN CHOOSE TO MISS A WEEK OF POSTING OR PUT A LITTLE LESS EFFORT INTO ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT IF YOUR SCHEDULE REQUIRES IT AND/OR YOU ARE DOING WELL ENOUGH ON YOUR ASSIGNMENTS TO BE HAPPY WITH YOUR GRADE WITHOUT IT. You may ***NOT*** skip any of the assignments completely except for one of the weekly posts.

Written Assignments

There are two written papers. The first is due in 3 pieces submitted over time; the second is due in one complete piece.

(1).

A. **Due October 12 (1 paragraph ONLY; 5points):**
B. **Due October 26 (1- 2 pages; 10 points):**
C. **Due November 9 (2-3 pages; 15 points):**

(2.) **Due December 7 (2-3 pages; 15 points):**

Oral Assignments

Students will make an oral presentation during the second in-class workshop. The presentation is worth 15 points:

Oral Testimony
Prepare and deliver 10 minutes (enforced maximum) of oral testimony addressing the issue of the December 7 paper.

Class participation
5 points per topic/week – maximum 50 points; due every Sunday.